Representation from association of hirers of private and public telephone call offices, Madras

1312. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a representation dated 27th July, 1991 has been received by the Government from Association of Hirers of private and Public Telephone Call Offices (PPCOs), Madras;

(b) if so, what are their grievances;

(c) whether Government are considering their request sympathetically; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MNISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE OF MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The representation is mainly regarding:-

— Reduction in minimum Guarantee amount for public Call Offices (PCOs). and

— Conversion of PCOs into private telephones.

(c) and (d) The representationists are being replied to.

Cases against press reporters in Haryana

1313. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cases registered against Press Reporters in Haryana from 1987 till date;

(b) the number of Press Reporters who have complained of harassment in Haryana since 1987 till date, particularly during the course of covering bye-elections in Mahem and Darba Kalan Constituancies in Haryana;

(c) whether Government are aware of the attempts of curbs on Press Freedom in Haryana; if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) what steps Government have taken on a memorandum submitted by the Delhi Union of Journalists on 8th January, 1991 to the Prime Minister Sirsa episode?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) to (c) 'Public orders' and 'Police' are State subjects. No information with regard to the cases registered against the Press or the complaints by the Press is compiled and monitored by the Central Government.

(d) The Delhi Union of Journalists had submitted a memorandum to the then Prime Minister in January, 1991 on Sirsa episode. Based on the report received from the Chief Minnster of Haryana, a reply was sent to the Delhi Union of Journalists by the Prime Minister's Office in February, 1991.

Vacation of premises at Ganesh Chandra Avenue, Calcutta

1314. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of post had taken a decision to vacate the premises situated at 2-B, Ganesh Chandra Avenue, Calcutta-700013 which was given on lease to postal Life Insurance, Calcutta;

(b) if so, whether said decision has been communicated by the Department of Post on 26th February, 1991 to the owner of the said building;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the decision to vacate the said building is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes,Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) Action to shift the office of Postal Life Insurance, Calcutta to departmental accommodation is under way and it will be shifted as early as feasible.

Representation from Association for opening of new Sub-Post Office at Ambattur, Madras

1315. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a representation dated 7th July, 1991 has been received from Joint Council of Welfare Associations, Ambattur Township Tamil Nadu, by the Department of Posts, New Delhi regarding opening of New Sub-Post Office with telegraph facilities at Secretariat Colony, M.T.H. Road, Ambattur, Madrass-600023;

(b) whether it is a fact that the question of opening of new Sub-Post Office at Ambatture, Madras was under consideration of the Department of Post;

(c) if so, by when the Sub-Post Office is likely to be opened;

(d) whether a vacant building is available at Secretariat Colony, Ambattur caused by shifting of State Bank of India brtnch; and

(e) whether the new Sub-Post Office can be opened in the sell vacant build ing, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A proposal for opening a sub post office at Ambattur MTH Road, Venkatapuram, Ambtttur Madras was examined and it was found that as many as four post offices namely, Ambattur Head Post Office, Ambattur West Sub Post Office, Vijayalakshmipuram Sub Post office and Menambedu Sub-Post Office are functioning in the area at distance ranging between 1 Km and 1.5 km from the proposed post office. Since the distance criterion of minimum 2 kms. is not fulfilled, and adequate postal facilities are available in the area, opening of a new post office is not considered necessary.

(d) and (e) The question noes not arise in view of (b) and (c).

Conference of Nort Eatern Council

1316. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM:
SHRI KHYOMO LOTHA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the outcome of the recent Conference of North Eastern Council (NEC) held at Imphal;

(b) the new schemes proposed to be taken up by the NEC during the Eighth Five Year Plan for the development of North Eastern States; and

(c) whether Sikkem has been proposed to be included in the Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) A meeting of North Eastern Council was held on 11 August, 1991 at Imphal. Among other things, issues regarding transport and ommunication, air services, power situation, annual Plan of the Council for 1991-92 and role of NEC were discussed in the meeting.

(b) Exercise for preparation of the North Eastern Council's draft Eighth Five Year Plan has commenced' and that State Governments have been addressed in the matter.

(c) No decision has been taken by the North Eastern Councel regarding inclusion of Sikkim in the Council.